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SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY: Syria

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT: Composition to Present Syrian Government
Expressed at Meeting of Arab National
Party in Aleppo

INFO.

DIST: February 1947

COUNTRY: [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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- On 12 December 1946 a meeting of the executive committee of the Arab National Party (al-Hizb al-Qawmi al-Arabi) took place in the home of Zafir al-Rifa'i (during the war reported as a German agent; ardent nationalist) in Aleppo. The following persons were present:

Fatih Jazmati....(known to have been an Axis partisan);
 Ahmad Karbar.....(formerly in concentration camp as enemy agent);
 Munir Ghannam.....(Ghanim?);
 Mahmud Hirawi;
 'Abd-al-Qafur Masutti..(reported to be a Russian propagandist);
 Najib Muyassir;
 Ahmad al-Rifai... (formerly reported by the Turks as enemy agent);
 Ahmad Rustum;
 'Abdallah Hanano.

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Comment: A broadcast from Damascus on 4 January 1947 announced the formation of the Arab National Party.

- The committee decided to support the amendment of the Syrian constitution to institute direct election of deputies for parliament (and not indirect election by electors, as at present).
- The committee also favored a Greater Syria Plan for the union of Lebanon, Palestine and Syria, with the provision, however, that Greater Syria should be a republic, and not a monarchy.
- The meeting ended with a violent speech by Zafir al-Rifa'i, in which he attacked the present Syrian Government and praised his own party and explained its hopes for the future.

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